MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: May I know from the member whether he was not promoted on account of seniority, merit and efficiency?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE: When promotions are made these are taken into consideration.

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR: In this case may I know whether those things were considered?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE: Yes, they were considered.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know from the member whether an acting promotion was given after receipt of complaints about the officer or before the complaints?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE: As I said before, the first promotion was in 1104 and the second in 1105, *i.e*, before complaints were made against him.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: If there are serious complaints against an officer, may I know whether such complaints will be considered when he is being promoted to a higher office?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE: If there are complaints, certainly they will be enquired into at the time of promotion.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR (*Vaikam cum Shertallai*): May I know whether seniority is determined on the basis of priority of service or length of service?

PRESIDENT: That is a general question; it does not arise.

Opening of the Tiruvitancode, Karinkal and Pattanam Kals.

6. MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken in pursuance of their reply to interpellation No. 17 given at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd August 1926, regarding the opening of the Tiruvitancode, Karinkal and Pattanam Kals, which was said to be under the consideration of the Chief Engineer?

MR. L. H. JACOB: Investigations conducted go to show that the water now available in the channels is barely enough for the lands now brought under cultivation. So no useful purpose will be served in opening fresh channels.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Will the member be pleased to state the probable area that may become available for conversion for paddy cultivation by the opening of this channel?

MR. L. H. JACOB: I am afraid I have not got the information.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Will the member be pleased to enquire into the matter?

MR. L. H. JACOB: Yes.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know what were the points that were considered by the Chief Engineer in coming to the conclusion contained in the answer?

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MR. L. H. JACOB: Investigation has shown that there is a lot of land which could be brought under cultivation under the existing channels but which has not yet been so converted; therefore, Government consider that, until these lands are brought under cultivation, there is no need for opening any fresh channel.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know whether, when considering the question of opening a channel, the area that it will irrigate will not be considered?

MR. L. H. JACOB: Yes, that *is* considered. In the present instance, the only question is whether the people, who have not converted so far, land which they can convert and for which they have a channel even now, will really convert other lands for which the proposed channel is intended.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: I am asking whether the area that the proposed channel will irrigate was considered by the department in deciding the question?

MR. L. H. JACOB: It was considered.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Then, may I know the total area that the proposed channel will irrigate?

MR. L. H. JACOB: I am afraid, I have not got the information; but the matter will be enquired into.

The opinion of Dr. Peter Lakshmanan about Mr. Hilkiah.

7. MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the opinion recorded by Dr. Peter Lakshmanan about Mr. Hilkiah?

MR. K. GEORGE: The question is vague, as it does not specify when and in what connection the opinion was recorded.

Statement showing rent of shops and tree-tax.

8. MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Municipal Councils*): Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the revenue realised from

(*a*) the rent of independent shops; and

(*b*) the tree-tax?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) and (*b*) The statement containing the information required is laid on the table.

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